

Image
**Sterne Kessler
Goldstein Fox**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Robert Greene Sterne
Edward J. Kessler
Jorge A. Goldstein
David K.S. Cornwell
Robert W. Esmond
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Michele A. Cimbala
Michael B. Ray
Robert E. Sokohl
Eric K. Steffe
Michael Q. Lee
Steven R. Ludwig
John M. Covert
Linda E. Alcorn
Robert C. Millonig
Lawrence B. Bugaisky
Donald J. Featherstone
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.
Patrick E. Garrett
Heidi L. Kraus
Edward W. Yee
Albert L. Ferro
Donald R. Banowitz
Peter A. Jackman
Molly A. McCall
Teresa U. Medler
Jeffrey S. Weaver
Kendrick P. Patterson
Vincent L. Capuano
Eldora Ellison Floyd
Thomas C. Fiala
Brian J. Del Buono
Virgil Lee Beason
Kimberly N. Reddick

Theodore A. Wood
Elizabeth J. Haanes
Joseph S. Ostroff
Frank R. Cottingham
Christine M. Lhulier
Rae Lynn Prengaman
Jane Shershenovich
Lawrence J. Carroll
George S. Bardmesser
Daniel A. Klein
Jason D. Eisenberg
Michael D. Specht
Andrea J. Kamage
Tracy L. Muller
LuAnne M. Yuricek
John J. Figueroa
Ann E. Summerfield
Tiera S. Coston

Aric W. Ledford*
Registered Patent Agents*
Karen R. Markowicz
Nancy J. Leith
Helene C. Carlson
Gaby L. Longworth
Matthew J. Dowd
Aaron L. Schwartz
Mary B. Tung
Katrina Y. Pei Quach
Bryan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
Timothy A. Doyle
Jennifer R. Mahalingappa
Teresa A. Colella
Jeffrey S. Lundgren

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Victoria S. Rutherford
Eric D. Hayes
Of Counsel
Kenneth C. Bass III
Evan R. Smith

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December 11, 2003

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 772-8525
INTERNET ADDRESS:
BRIAND@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit 1636

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/438,358; Filed: November 12, 1999
For: **Compositions and Methods for Recombinational Cloning of Nucleic
Acid Molecules**
Inventors: Gerard *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4640001/RWE/BJD/JKM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1);
2. Fee Transmittal (Form PTO/SB/17);
3. Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038;
4. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
5. One (1) return postcard.

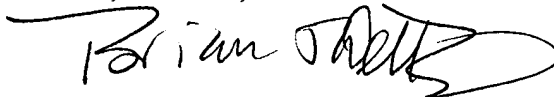
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
December 11, 2003
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Del Buono", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Brian J. Del Buono
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,473

RWE/BJD/JKM/acr
Enclosures

SKGF 209143v1